

Application No.: 09/829,760
Amendment dated: October 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: 08/25/2004



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Chenault)
SERIAL NO.: 09/829,760)
FILED: 04/10/2001)
FOR: A SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR)
ENSURING THE QUALIFICATION OF A)
WORKMAN TO PERFORM A TASK)
HAVING ESTABLISHED REQUIRED)
STANDARDS)

DOCKET NO.: 005788.00002)

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EXAMINING ATTORNEY: Paschall)

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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED AUGUST 25, 2004

In response to the Official Action dated august 25, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Please delete the title of this Application and replace with the following:

"A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ENSURING THE QUALIFICATION OF AN OPERATOR FOR PERFORMING TASKS HAVING ESTABLISHED REQUIRED STANDARDS."

Amend Claims 1, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35 and 36 as reflected in the amendments to the Claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.81
hereby certify that this document and any document referred to as being attached therein is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in an envelope as "First Class Mail" addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 22 Oct, 2004

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1 1. (Currently Amended) A system for ensuring the qualifications of a workman to
2 follow proper procedures for performing a covered task for which regulatory
3 authorities have established required standards, comprising:

4 means for providing the hardware and software for performing a covered
5 task at a selectable remote location;

6 means for interactively ~~interactive teaching, testing and/or evaluating the~~
7 ~~simulation or performance of a said covered task~~ at said selectable location; ~~and~~
8 ~~verify by~~

9 verifying by means of documenting the results of said ~~interactive teaching,~~
10 ~~testing and/or evaluating of said simulation or performance of a said covered~~
11 ~~task~~; and

12 ~~locating and recording the site of the~~ selectable location ~~covered task by~~
13 means of ~~the system's a~~ GPS system.

1 2. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein said covered task
2 is selected from mechanical, heat fusion and electro-fusion.

1 3. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2 wherein a said mechanical
2 covered task includes compression, bolt-on or stab-on connections.

1 4. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2 wherein said heat fusion
2 covered task includes butt fusion, socket fusion or sidewall fusion.

1 5. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 2 wherein said electro-fusion
2 covered task includes in-line coupling fusion or saddle fusion.

1 6-12 (Cancelled).

1 13. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~ensuring that documenting~~ the qualifications
2 of a workman to follow ~~proper established~~ procedures in the performance of a
3 covered task at a selectable location~~selected from a list of identified covered tasks~~
4 ~~to meet governmental and/or industrial standards~~, comprising the steps of:

5 (a) at the selected location~~for each covered task~~, measuring physical
6 parameters employed by the workman in the application, ~~or simulation of the~~
7 ~~application of steps required to complete the covered task;~~

8 (b) recording the values of parameters measured ~~or simulated in step~~
9 ~~(a); as to each covered task;~~

10 (c) comparing the values recorded in step (b) ~~for each covered task~~
11 ~~with approved pre-established standards~~ established procedures for performing
12 the covered task; and

13 (d) providing a record of the results of step (c) ~~identifying covered~~
14 ~~tasks that meet and/or those that don't meet said pre-established approved~~
15 ~~standards to thereby determine~~ document the qualifications of athe workman.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13 wherein step (a) includes
2 measuring ~~or simulating~~ the voltage, current, and time of application of voltage
3 applied to electric heat weldable fittings.

1 15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13 including measuring ~~or~~
2 ~~simulating~~ the applicable ambient temperature.

1 16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13 wherein apparatus used in
2 performing the covered task ~~(each said heat weldable thermoplastic fitting)~~ has
3 thereon a bar code having encoded information relating to ~~requirements for the~~
4 ~~successful~~ said established procedures for (welding application thereof)
5 ~~performance of performing~~ the covered task and including the step of reading said
6 bar code and employing information obtained therefrom to provide at least a
7 portion of said ~~governmental and/or industrial standards~~ established procedures.

1 17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 including the step of
2 storing said record of the results of step (d).

1 18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 17 including the step of
2 printing out a permanent record of the results of step (d) whereby the
3 qualifications of a workman ~~as to each task performed or simulated by the~~
4 ~~workman~~ can be preserved.

1 19. (Currently Amended) A method according to system for ensuring the
2 qualification of a workman to follow proper procedures for performing a covered
3 task according to claim 1,13, including:

4 means for identifying and recording the said selectable location of the site
5 of said covered task.

1 20. (Currently Amended) A system for ensuring the qualification of a workman to
2 follow proper procedures for performing a covered task method according to
3 claim 19, wherein said means for identifying and recording the said selectable
4 location of the site of said covered task includes utilizing global positioning
5 system instrumentation.

1 21. (Currently Amended) A system to ensure document the proficiency qualification
2 of a workman when performing to perform a covered task for which regulatory
3 authorities or industries have established required standards, referred to as a
4 covered task, comprising:

5 means for providing at a selectable location an interactive training, testing
6 and/or learning environment permitting the workman to physically interact with
7 the subject matter making up the covered task;

8 means providing hardware and software by which a workman can perform
9 for performing a covered task by the completion of a predefined sequence of
10 steps;

11 ~~as to a specific covered task,~~ means permitting the workman to physically
12 perform said covered task ~~or simulate the performance of said covered task;~~
13 means to provide a performance record that ~~records each of steps~~ taken by
14 said workman in the performance, ~~whether actual or simulated,~~ of said covered
15 task; and
16 means to evaluate ~~the workman performance and verify each covered task~~
17 ~~completed, whether actual or simulated,~~ said performance record to provide an
18 indication of the ~~proficiency~~ qualification of said workman; and
19 means to record, for purposes of documentation, said performance record.

1 22. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task
2 is selected from mechanical, heat fusion and electro-fusion covered tasks.

1 23. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 22 wherein said mechanical
2 covered task is selected from compression, bolt-on or stab-on connections
3 covered tasks.

1 24. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task
2 is for joining polyethylene pipe and fittings by heat fusion and wherein said heat
3 fusion covered tasks include butt fusion, socket fusion or sidewall fusion and
4 wherein said hardware includes infrared thermometer instrumentation for
5 measuring surface temperature of heat fusable components.

1 25. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task
2 covers ~~electro-fusion of~~ in-line coupling fusion or saddle fusion.

1 26. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task
2 includes the application of electrical energy to an electric heat weldable
3 thermoplastic fitting to weld the fitting to a thermoplastic pipe and wherein said
4 hardware includes:

5 a voltage source;

6 a microprocessor operated voltage control circuit connected to said
7 voltage source and having an output removably connectable to an electric heat
8 weldable thermoplastic fitting;

9 an amperage measurement circuit in association with said voltage control
10 circuit for determining current flow through said heat weldable thermoplastic
11 fitting; and

12 an input system connected to said voltage control circuit to impart
13 characteristics of the weldable thermoplastic fitting and ambient conditions, the
14 voltage control system serving to apply proper voltage for a determined time to
15 complete thermoplastic welding of the fitting to a thermoplastic pipe.

1 27. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 26 wherein said covered task
2 includes the application of electrical energy to an electric heat weldable
3 thermoplastic fitting ~~according~~ and including;

4 an ambient temperature circuit forming a part of said input system.

1 28. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~24~~26 wherein said covered
2 task includes controlling the application of electrical energy to an electric heat
3 weldable thermoplastic fitting and wherein said hardware includes;
4 a sensor for detecting the temperature of said weldable thermoplastic
5 fitting; and
6 a logic circuit responsive to said sensor forming a part of said input
7 system.

1 29. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~24~~26 wherein said covered
2 task includes controlling the application of electrical energy to an electric heat
3 weldable thermoplastic fitting and wherein said hardware includes;
4 feed-back logic circuitry interconnected between said weldable
5 thermoplastic fitting and said voltage control circuit.

1 30. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task
2 includes controlling the application of electrical energy to an electric heat
3 weldable thermoplastic fitting and wherein said weldable thermoplastic fitting has
4 thereon a bar code having encoded information relating to requirements for to
5 successful welding application thereof and wherein said hardware includes an
6 input system having a bar code reader.

1 31. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task
2 includes controlling the application of electrical energy to an electric heat

3 weldable thermoplastic fitting and wherein said hardware includes an information
4 storage system in communication with an input system by which information as to
5 the parameters employed in the application of an electric heat weldable
6 thermoplastic fitting to a thermoplastic pipe are stored.

1 32. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 21 wherein said covered task
2 includes controlling the application of electrical energy to an electric heat
3 weldable thermoplastic fitting and wherein said hardware includes a printer in
4 communication with an information storage system for providing a print out of
5 details of welding said electric heat weldable thermoplastic fitting to a plastic
6 pipe.

1 33. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for ensuring the qualification of a workman to~~
2 ~~follow proper procedures for performing a covered task~~ according to claim 21
3 including:

4 means for identifying and recording the location of the site of said covered
5 task.

1 34. (Currently Amended) A system ~~for ensuring the qualification of a workman to~~
2 ~~follow proper procedures for performing a covered task~~ according to claim 33
3 wherein said means for identifying and recording the location of the site of said
4 covered task includes global positioning system instrumentation.

1 35. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~ensuring~~ documenting the qualification of a
2 workman to ~~follow proper procedures when performing~~ perform a task for which
3 regulatory authorities or industries have established required standards, referred to
4 as a covered task, comprising:

5 ~~involving the workman in an interactive training, testing and/or learning~~
6 ~~environment;~~

7 providing hardware and software for performing a covered task by
8 completion of a predetermined sequence of steps;

9 permitting a the workman to perform or ~~simulate the performance of~~ said
10 covered task employing said hardware and software;

11 making a record of each step taken by said workman; ~~when performing or~~
12 ~~simulating the performance of said covered task; and~~

13 ~~evaluating~~ providing an evaluation of said record ~~to obtain as an indication~~
14 ~~of the proficiency~~ qualification of said workman to perform the covered task; and

15 preserving said evaluation as documentation of the workman's
16 qualification.

1 36. (Currently Amended) A method of ensuring the qualification of a workman
2 according to claim 35 in which the covered task is the installation of an electric
3 heat weldable thermoplastic fitting ~~wherein the heat weldable thermoplastic~~
4 ~~fitting has~~ having thereon a bar code having encoded information relating to
5 requirements for the successful installation thereof and including the step of

6 reading said bar code and employing information obtained therefrom in the
7 evaluation of ~~the proficiency of~~ said workman.

1 37. (Previously Presented) A method of ensuring the qualification of a workman
2 according to claim 35 including the step of printing out a permanent record of
3 each step employed by said workman whereby if a workman fails to achieve
4 qualification, the reason therefor may be identified.

1 38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 35 including the step of
2 identifying and recording the location of the site of said covered task.

1 39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38 wherein said step for
2 identifying and recording the location of the site of said covered task includes the
3 use of global positioning system instrumentation.